IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (previously presented), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 25 and AMEND claims 20-23, 26, 27, and 32-37 in accordance with the following:

1-19 (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) A method for establishing a route via a connection-oriented communication network with a plurality of network nodes connected to one another for emulating connectionless services, comprising the steps of:

communicating a connection setup message including a destination address and a source address to a network node, said connection setup message proceeding from a source communication terminal device;

entering a network address into the connection setup message via said network node, said network address being allocated to the network node in the communication network;

forwarding the connection setup message via the network node that receives the connection setup message to at least one neighboring network node;

forwarding the connection setup message to a destination communication terminal device upon reception of the connection setup message at a destination node, said destination node being identifiable with an assistance of the destination address; and

returning a confirmation message to the source communication terminal device on said route, said route being defined by the source address, said route also being defined by the network node address, a switching information for messages to be subsequently transmitted between the source communication terminal and the destination communication terminal device being deposited in network nodes that are traversed[[.]],

wherein the network node receiving the connection setup message forwards the connection setup message to one or more other network nodes only if the only one or more other network nodes each has a network node address not entered in the received connection setup message, the one or more other network nodes being connected to the network node receiving the connection setup message.

21. (currently amended) A method for establishing a route via a connection-oriented communication network with a plurality of network nodes connected to one another for emulating connectionless services, comprising the steps of:

communicating a connection setup message including a destination address and a source address to a network node, said connection setup message proceeding from a source communication terminal device;

entering a network address into the connection setup message via said network node, said network address being allocated to the network node in the communication network;

forwarding the connection setup message via the network node that receives the connection setup message to at least one neighboring network node; and

returning a confirmation message to the source communication terminal device on said route upon receiving of the connection setup message at a destination node, said destination node identifiable with an assistance of the destination address, said route being defined by the source address, said route also being defined by the network node address, a switching information for messages to be subsequently transmitted between the source communication terminal and the destination communication terminal device being deposited in network nodes that are traversed[[.]],

wherein the network node receiving the connection setup message forwards the connection setup message to one or more other network nodes only if the only one or more other network nodes each has a network node address not entered in the received connection setup message, the one or more other network nodes being connected to the network node receiving the connection setup message.

22. (currently amended) A method for establishing a route via a connection-oriented communication network with a plurality of network nodes connected to one another for emulating connectionless services, comprising the steps of:

communicating a connection setup message including a destination address and a source address to a network node, said connection setup message proceeding from a source communication terminal device;

entering a network address into the connection setup message via said network node, said network address being allocated to the network node in the communication network;

forwarding the connection setup message via the network node that receives the connection setup message to at least one neighboring network node;

forwarding the connection setup message to a destination communication terminal

device upon reception of the connection setup message at a destination node, said destination node being identifiable with an assistance of the destination address; and

returning a confirmation message to a source ~~net work~~ network node to which the source communication terminal device is allocated on said route, said route being defined by the source address, said route also being defined by the network node address, a switching information for messages to be subsequently transmitted between the source communication terminal and the destination communication terminal device being deposited in network nodes that are traversed[[.]],

wherein the network node receiving the connection setup message forwards the connection setup message to one or more other network nodes only if the only one or more other network nodes each has a network node address not entered in the received connection setup message, the one or more other network nodes being connected to the network node receiving the connection setup message.

23. (currently amended) A method for establishing a route via a connection-oriented communication network with a plurality of network nodes connected to one another for emulating connectionless services, comprising the steps of:

communicating a connection setup message including a destination address and a source address to a network node, said connection setup message proceeding from a source communication terminal device;

entering a network address into the connection setup message via said network node, said network address being allocated to the network node in the communication network;

forwarding the connection setup message via the network node that receives the connection setup message to at least one neighboring network node; and

returning a confirmation message to a source network node on said route upon receiving of the connection setup message at a destination node, said destination node identifiable with an assistance of the destination address, said route being defined by the source address, said route also being defined by the network node address, said source communication terminal device being allocated to said source network node, a switching information for messages to be subsequently transmitted between the source communication terminal and the destination communication terminal device being deposited in network nodes that are traversed[[.]],

wherein the network node receiving the connection setup message forwards the connection setup message to one or more other network nodes only if the only one or more

other network nodes each has network node address not entered in the received connection setup message, the one or more other network nodes being connected to the network node receiving the connection setup message.

24. (previously presented) A method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of: communicating the connection setup message to a source network node, said source communication terminal device being connected to the communication network via said source network node.

25. (cancelled)

26. (currently amended) A method according to claim 20, wherein said network node receiving the connection setup message forwards the connection setup message to ~~net work~~ network nodes being connected to the network node receiving the connection only when a plurality of network nodes traversed by a received connection setup message is lower than an adjustable limit value.

27. (currently amended) A method according to claim 20, wherein in instances where a plurality of connection setup ~~message~~ messages are received at the destination communication terminal device, further comprising the steps of:

selecting one of received connection setup messages based on a predetermined criteria; and

returning said confirmation message only for a setup message selected based on said selecting step.

28. (previously presented) A method according to claim 27, wherein only connection setup messages that arrive within a predetermined time span after reception of a first connection setup message at the destination communication terminal device are considered for said selecting step.

29. (previously presented) A method according to claim 27, wherein said predetermined criteria is based on the plurality of the network nodes traversed on said route, said route being defined by the connection setup message.

30. (previously presented) A method according to claim 27, wherein said predetermined criteria is based on costs incurred on said route, said route being defined by the connection setup message.

31 ~~30.~~ (previously presented) A method according to claim 27, wherein said predetermined criteria depends on a transmission capacity made available on said route, said route being defined by the connection setup message.

32 ~~31.~~ (previously presented) A method according claim 20, wherein a transmission of at least one of the connection setup message and the confirmation message between neighboring network nodes ensues via a specific connection provided exclusively for transmission of at least one of the connection setup and the confirmation message.

33 ~~32.~~ (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~32~~ 31, wherein at least one channel of a connecting line between two neighboring network nodes is reserved for said specific connection.

34 ~~33~~ 34. (currently amended) A method according to claim 20, wherein an i^{th} network node receiving the connection setup message enters the network node address being allocated to said i^{th} network node in the communication network into an address field of an i^{th} address pair field of the connection setup message.

35 ~~34~~ 34. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~34~~ 33, wherein the network node address is the layer-3 address of the network node according to Open Systems Interconnection reference model.

36 ~~35~~ 34. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~34~~ 33 wherein the i^{th} network node receiving the confirmation message enters a layer-2 address into a further address field of the i^{th} address pair field of the confirmation message, said layer-2 address being allocated to said i^{th} network node communication network according to the Open Systems Interconnection reference model.

37 ~~36~~ (currently amended) A method according to claim 20, wherein for a bi-directional message communication between the source communication terminal device and the

destination communication terminal device the switching information being deposited sets which input of the network node is linked to which output of the network node.

38 ~~3837~~. (currently amended) A method according to claim ~~3736~~, wherein the switching information is deleted after a predetermined time span in which no messages were transmitted between the source communication terminal device and the destination communication terminal device.